

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (cancelled).
2. (currently amended): An image formation apparatus comprising:
a development unit using a developer support having a conductive surface layer; and
a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed at a
predetermined timing in a non-print state~~The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 1;~~
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a
developing bias applied to the developer support is off.
3. (currently amended): An image formation apparatus comprising:
a development unit using a developer support having a conductive surface layer; and
a control unit for causing an idle operation of the developer support to be performed at a
predetermined timing in a non-print state~~The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 1;~~
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image
exposure to an image support is off.

4. (currently amended): The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim ~~1~~2 or claim 3, wherein the predetermined timing is involved in a non-operating time after power on or in a non-operating time after a termination of a preceding print.

5. (currently amended): The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim ~~1~~2 or claim 3, wherein the predetermined timing is applied when installation of a new development device is detected.

6. (original): The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print is performed for a time period determined based on a temperature, a humidity, and a toner consumption amount and an elapsed time since the preceding print.

7. (currently amended): The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after power on or when installation of a new development device is detected is performed for the time period corresponding to a case ~~of a~~ of a high temperature, a high humidity, and a large elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print.

8. (currently amended): The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after power on or when installation of a

the new development device is detected is performed for a time period corresponding to a case ~~of a~~ of a high temperature, a high humidity, ~~and a~~ and a large elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print.

9. (cancelled).

10. (currently amended): An image formation apparatus comprising:
a development unit using a developer support having a conductive surface layer; and
a control unit for causing an idle operation of the 5 developer support to be performed
before image formation operation;~~The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 9,~~
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a
developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

11. (currently amended): An image formation apparatus comprising:
a development unit using a developer support having a conductive surface layer; and
a control unit for causing an idle operation of the 5 developer support to be performed
before image formation operation;~~The image formation apparatus as claimed in claim 9,~~
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image
exposure to an image support is off.

12. (cancelled).

13. (currently amended): An image formation apparatus comprising:
a rotary developing unit; and
a control unit for causing an idle operation of a developer support to be performed each
time development units installed in said rotary developing unit are switched;~~The image~~
~~formation apparatus as claimed in claim 12,~~

wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a
developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

14. (currently amended): An image formation apparatus comprising:
a rotary developing unit; and
a control unit for causing an idle operation of a developer support to be performed each
time development units installed in said rotary developing unit are switched;~~The image~~
~~formation apparatus as claimed in claim 12,~~

wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when an image
exposure to an image support is off.

15. (cancelled).

16. (currently amended): An image formation method comprising the steps of:
performing an idle operation of a developer support to decrease a density unevenness
caused depending on a standing state of a developing chamber portion and an exposure portion
of the developer support; and
opposing the developer support having the developing chamber portion and the exposure
portion to an image support and forming an image;~~The image formation method as claimed in~~
~~claim 15,~~
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when a
developing bias applied to the developer support is off.

17. (currently amended): An image formation method comprising the steps of:
performing an idle operation of a developer support to decrease a density unevenness
caused depending on a standing state of a developing chamber portion and an exposure portion
of the developer support; and
opposing the developer support having the developing chamber portion and the exposure
portion to an image support and forming an image;~~The image formation method as claimed in~~
~~claim 15,~~
wherein the idle operation is a rotation operation of the developer support when ~~an~~ the
image exposure to an image support is off.

18. (currently amended): The image formation method as claimed in claim ~~15~~16 or claim 17, wherein the idle operation is performed in a non-operating time after power on or in a non-operating time after a termination of a preceding print.

19. (currently amended): The image formation method as claimed in claim ~~15~~16 or claim 17, wherein the idle operation is performed when installation of a new development device is detected.

20. (original): The image formation method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print is performed for a time period determined based on a temperature, a humidity, and a toner consumption amount and an elapsed time since the preceding print.

21. (original): The image formation method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after power on or when installation of a new development device is detected is performed for a time period corresponding to a case of a high temperature, a high humidity, and a large elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after the termination of the preceding print.

22. (currently amended): The image formation method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after power on or when installation of a

the new development device is detected is performed for a time period corresponding to a case of a high temperature, a high humidity, and a large elapsed time in the idle operation performed in the non-operating time after a termination of a preceding print.

23. (withdrawn): An image formation method comprising the steps of:
opposing a developer support having a developing chamber portion and an exposure portion to an image support and forming an image in toner with the volume fraction of fine powder having particle diameter 5 μm or less set to 10% or less.

24. (withdrawn): The image formation method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the existence ratio of free external additive in external additive added to the toner is set to 8% or less as the number ratio.

25. (withdrawn): The image formation method as claimed in claim 23, wherein a wax content of the toner is set to 4 wt% or less.

26. (withdrawn): The image formation method as claimed in claim 24, wherein a wax content of the toner is set to 4 wt% or less.